

ROUND TABLE: "CONSTRAINING DEPENDENCY GRAMMAR"; ORGANIZERS' REPORT

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Abstract: The Round Table on Constraining Dependency Grammar was proposed for the CIL-16 for the purpose of discussing the questions of 1) whether current approaches to dependency grammar might be further formally constrained to increase their empirical content, and/or 2) whether some standard DG constraints were already too severe to allow for the accomodation of data from natural languages. Seven papers related to this theme were presented in two panel sessions by researchers from Asia, Australia, Europe and North America, with pre-designated discussants for each of the four papers in the first session and open discussion of all the papers.

Keywords: constraints, coordination, dependency grammar, model theory, movement, projectivity, relative clauses, syntax

1. COMPOSITION OF THE ROUND TABLE

The Round Table "Constraining Dependency Grammars" was organized by Hisami Konishi Springer and Stanley Starosta, University of Hawai'i, Honolulu. It was held in two sessions on successive days, July 24 and 25. The first session was chaired by Dr. Laurent Sagart, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique sur l'Asie Orientale, and the second was chaired by Stanley Starosta. Each of the papers in the first session had a pre-designated commentator. The papers presented are listed below with their discussants.

1.1 Session 1

Prof. William McGregor, University of Melbourne, Melbourne; 'Semantic constraints on dependency'.

Discussant: Prof. Eva Hajičová, Charles University, Prague.

Prof. Vladimir Pericliev, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sophia; 'From the principle of projectivity and partial orderings to sophisticated linearization constraints'.

Discussant: Dr. Norbert Bröker, University of Freiburg, Freiburg

Prof. Petr Sgall, Charles University, Prague: 'On the usefulness of movement rules'.

Discussant: Prof. Stanley Starosta, University of Hawai'i, Honolulu

Dr. Hisami Konishi Springer and Prof. Stanley Starosta, University of Hawai'i, Honolulu: 'A dependency analysis of coordination in English and Japanese'.

Discussant: Prof. And Rosta, University of Central Lancaster

1.2 Session 2

Dr. Norbert Bröker, University of Stuttgart, Stuttgart: 'A model-theoretic interpretation of dependency theory'.

Dr. Chhany Sak-Humphry, University of Hawai'i, Honolulu: 'Relative clauses in Old Khmer and Modern Khmer: a constrained dependency analysis'.

Prof. Sebastian Shaumyan, Yale University, New Haven: 'A fundamental constraint to increase the expressive power of dependency grammars: functional deduction of dependencies'.

2. EVALUATION

While not all the papers focused to equal degrees on the original question of formal constraints on dependency grammar, all were original and informative contributions to the field, and the discussion initiated by this panel is expected to continue on the dependency grammar net on into 1998. The diversity of the topics addressed and of the home countries represented by the presenters (Australia, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Russia, UK, and USA) attests to the vitality of the dependency grammar paradigm and its claims to universal applicability.

